
Systems Engineering, Knowledge Management, Artificial Intelligence, the Semantic Web and Operations Research

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Outline

- Introduction
- Systems Theory
- Systems Architecture Representation
- Aggregating Stakeholder Preferences
- Defence Systems Engineering
- Example (ASBM)
- Future Work
- Conclusion

Basic Systems Theory

- Systems are characterised by
 - purposes
 - components
 - attributes of components
 - relationships between components
- Components can be sub-systems, themselves composed of components, etc.
 - results in subsystem / component hierarchy
- *Conceptual* system vs. physical “system” (*asset configuration*)

Systems Architecture

- Systems architecture
 - abstract representation of *ensemble* of asset configurations
- Architectural Description Frameworks
 - US DoD C4ISR Architecture Framework
 - IEEE Std 1471-2000 Recommended Practice for Architectural Description Software-Intensive Systems
 - Australian Defence Architecture Framework
- Question: How may architecture descriptions be rigorously articulated?

Semantic Web

- Builds on World Wide Web technology
- Present web permits exchange of content
 - NOT underlying meaning: must be inferred by human user
- Semantic Web allows formal representation of hierarchies and relationships (as used in SE)
- Knowledge distributed across network
- Based on graph theory, uses navigation metaphor
- Uses RDF and XML W3C standards

Web Ontology Language (OWL)

- Description Logic used to formally articulate concepts
 - combines Boolean algebra and relation algebra
- Boolean algebra - allows hierarchies (lattices) to be formally specified
 - indirectly implied inclusions automatically derivable
- Relation algebra - describes *linkages* between concepts at various levels hierarchy
 - helps determine additional inclusions that may validly be inferred

Example from C4ISR AF

- IMPLIES
 - Need line
 - AND
 - EXACTLY 1
 - provided by
 - Operational node
 - EXACTLY 1
 - used by
 - Operational node
 - EXACTLY 1
 - item needed
 - Operational information element

Stakeholders' Needs

- Numerous stakeholders
- Multiple decision-makers representing their interests
- Causes preference aggregation problems
 - not dealt with by conventional decision-making theories and tools
- Arrow's general possibility theorem
 - aggregation of individual preference into deterministic group preferences problematic
 - **HENCE** group preference must be non-deterministic

Abductive Inference

- Deduction, Induction and *Abduction*: distinct modes of inference
- Deduction
 - derive new facts from existing facts using predetermined rules
- Induction
 - infer general rules from facts
- Abduction
 - given rules and some facts, suggest additional facts that would “best” explain the given facts

Defence Force Systems Engineering



Present (legacy)

Best Prospects Decision



Next (alternatives)

Possible Futures
(many)



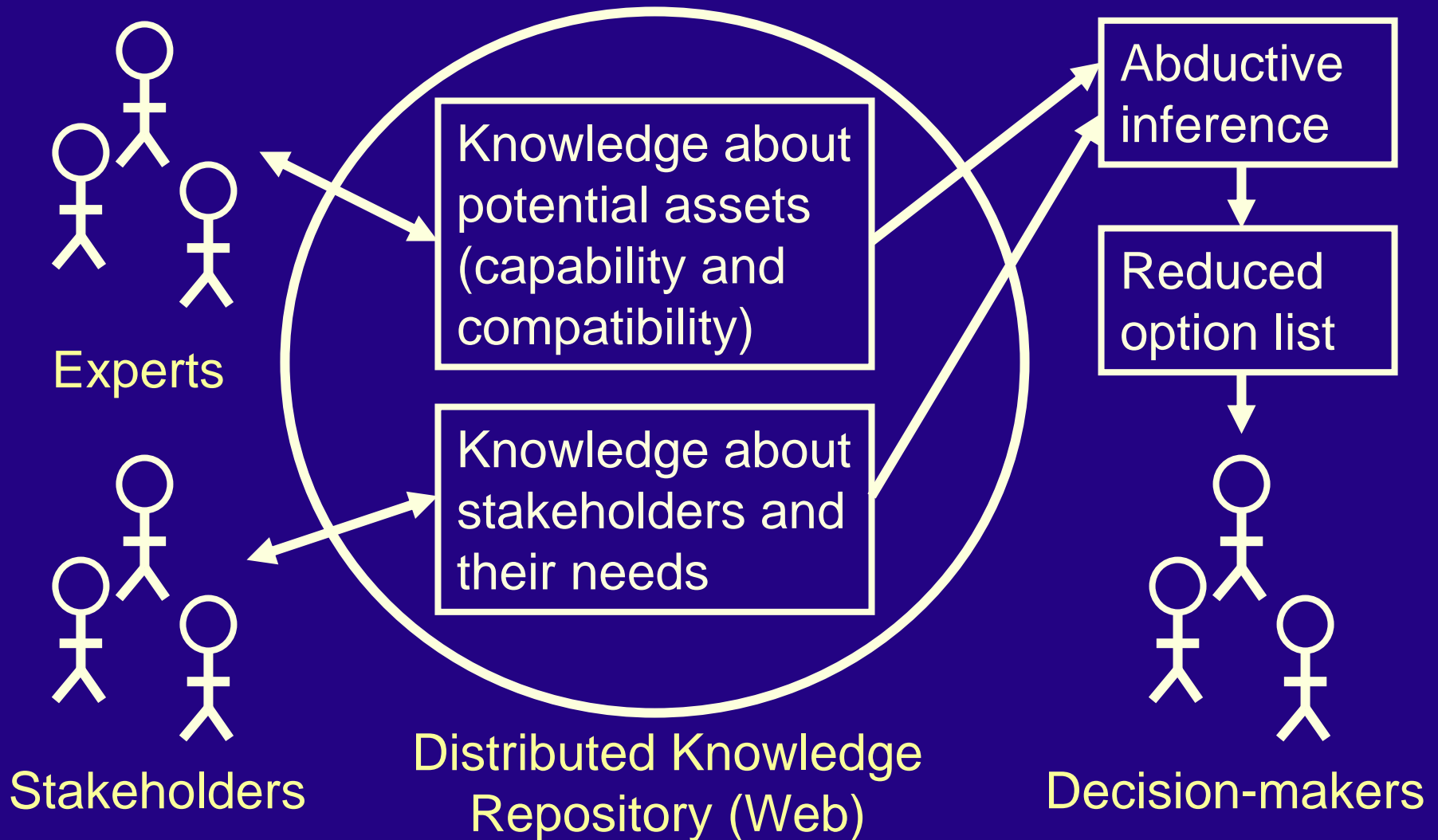
Evolution



Decision Support

- Human beings competent to deal with ~ 7 alternatives at once
- Use automated methods to cull decision options down to a few best
 - stakeholders and decision-makers then give these close scrutiny
- Take “best” to mean “most credible”
- Employ Bayesian Belief Network techniques to perform *credibilistic* abductive reasoning
- Include future epochs so that the impacts of future eventualities are incorporated

Concept of Use



Aerospace Surveillance and Battle Management

- Projects
 - Air 5077 AEW&C
 - Air 5333 Vigilare
 - Air 5405 Mobile Sector Operations Centre
 - Joint 117 Ground Based Air Defence
 - Joint 2025 JORN
 - Joint 2044 Space Based Surveillance
 - Joint 2062 Global Hawk
- Legacy Assets
 - 114MCRU, Air Defence
- Stakeholders, Epochs

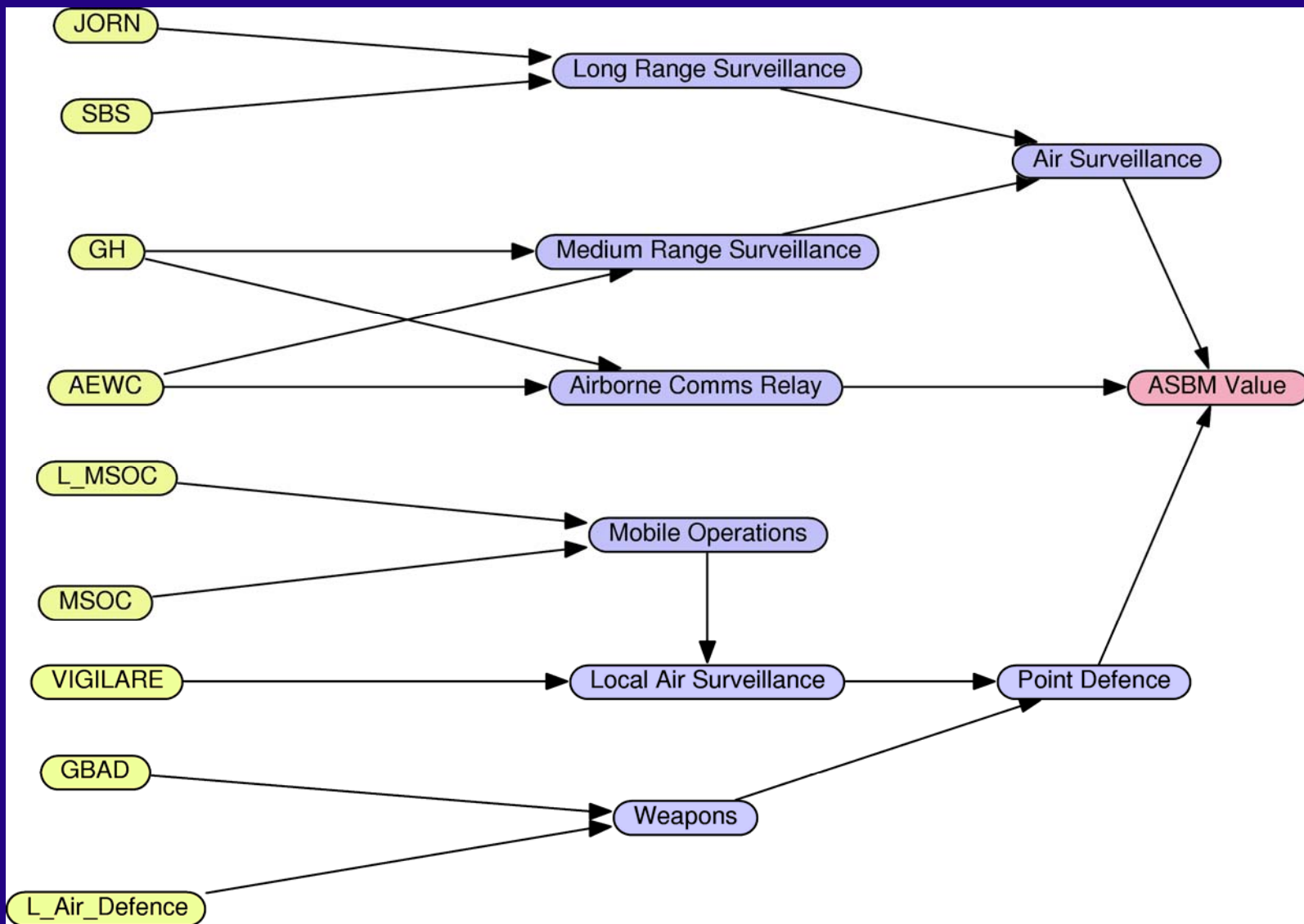
Top Level Description Logic Expressions

- IMPLIES 100% ASBM capability
 - AND
 - Air surveillance
 - Airborne Comms Relay
 - Point Defence
- IMPLIES Air surveillance
 - AND
 - Long range surveillance
 - Medium range surveillance
- IMPLIES Point Defence
 - AND
 - Local area surveillance
 - Weapons system

Additional Expressions

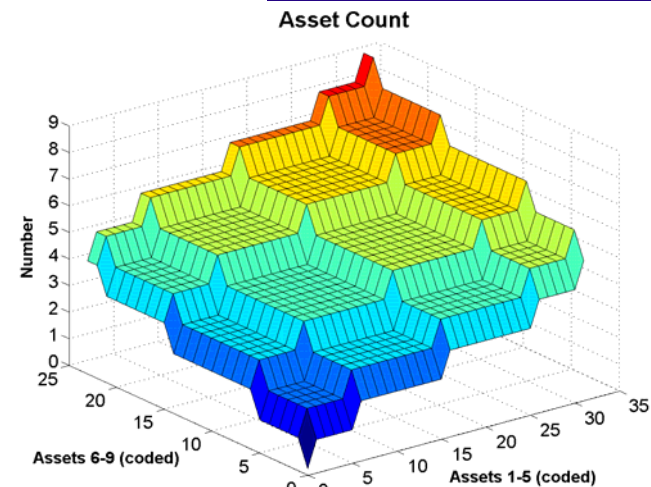
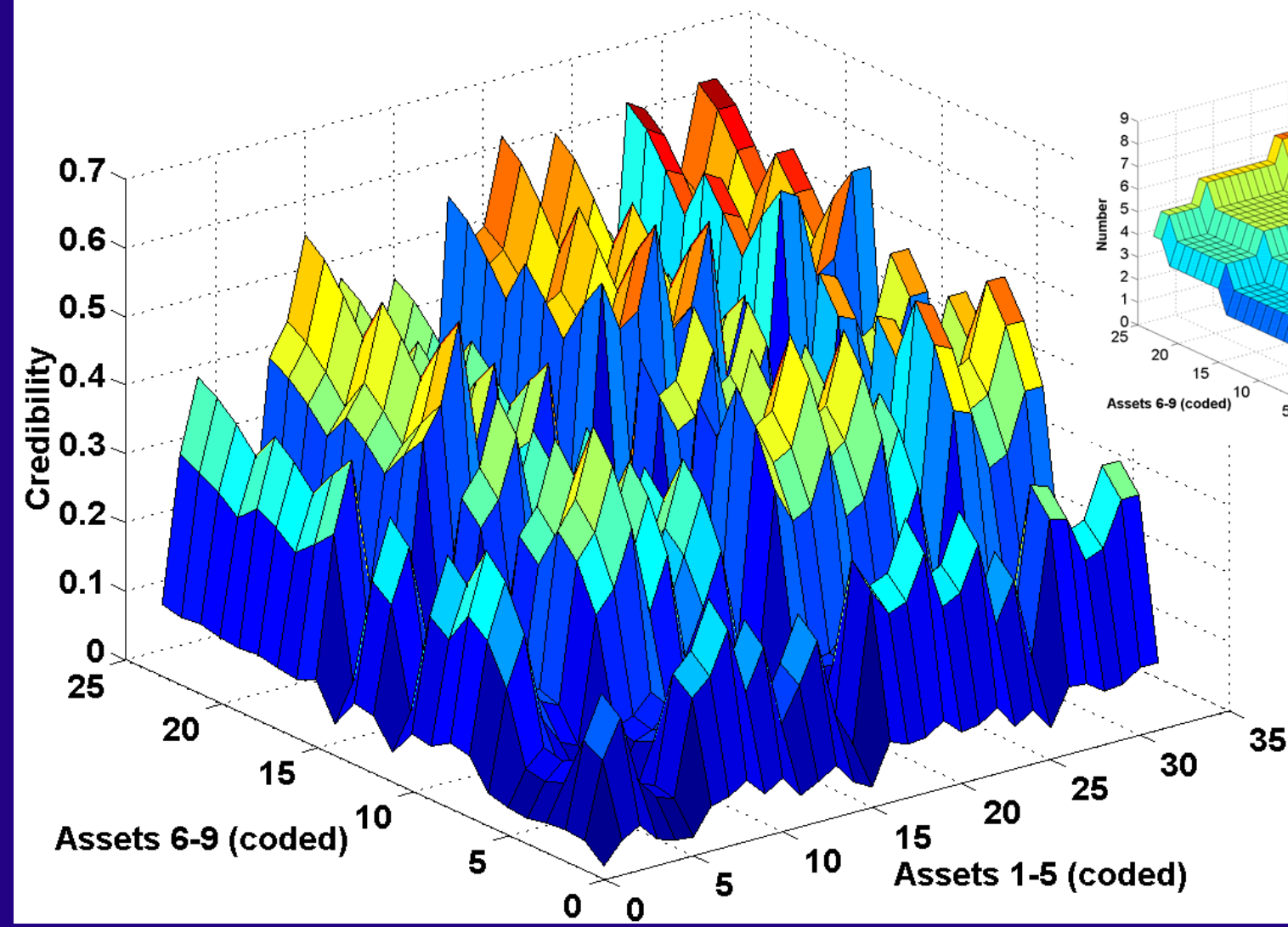
- IMPLIES 70% ASBM capability
 - AND
 - Air surveillance
 - Point Defence
- IMPLIES Long range surveillance
 - OR
 - JORN (Upgraded)
 - Space-based surveillance (Present)
- IMPLIES Medium range surveillance
 - OR
 - UAV (Present)
 - AEW&C (Present)
- EQUALS JORN (Upgraded)
 - JORN AND (SOME has_condition Upgraded)

Value Network for Warfighter



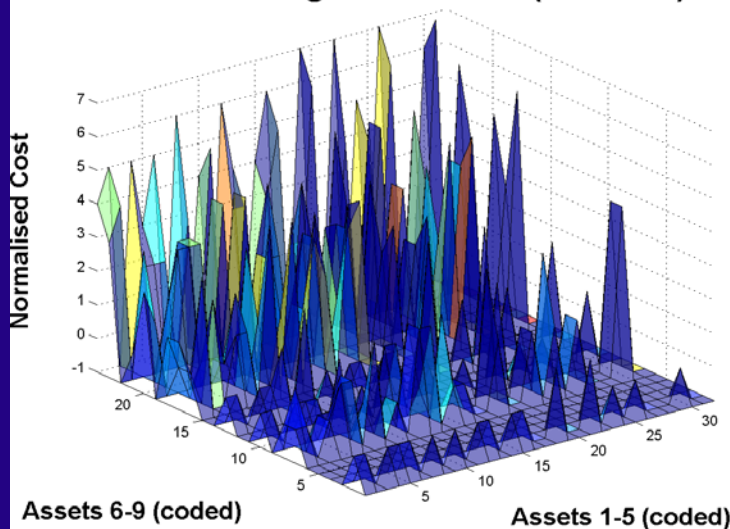
Warfighter Preference

Asset Configuration Prior Credibility for Period 1

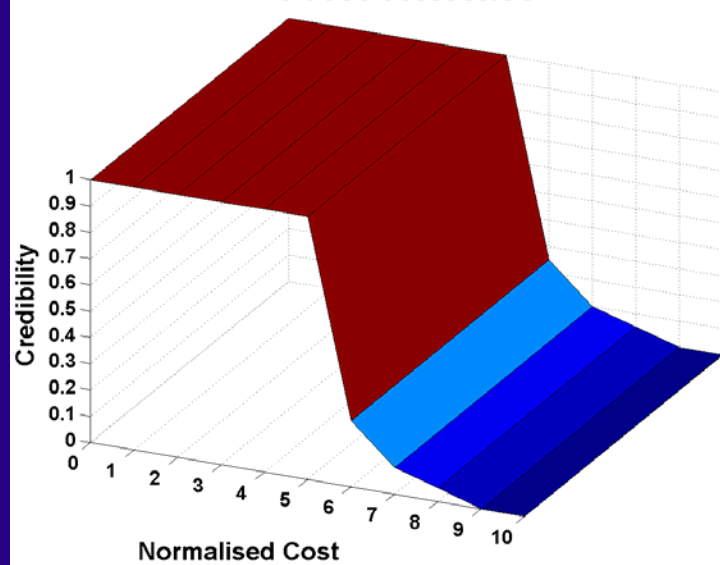


Finance Manager Preference

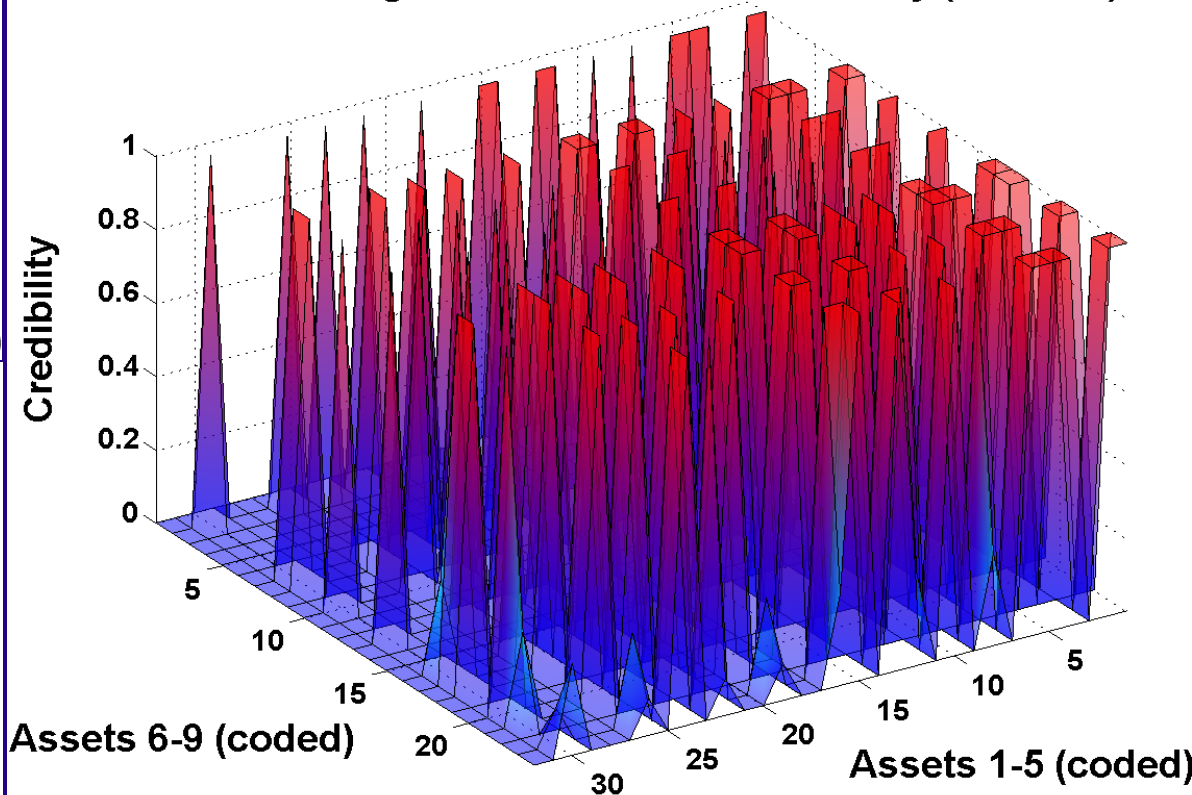
Asset Configuration Cost (Period 1)



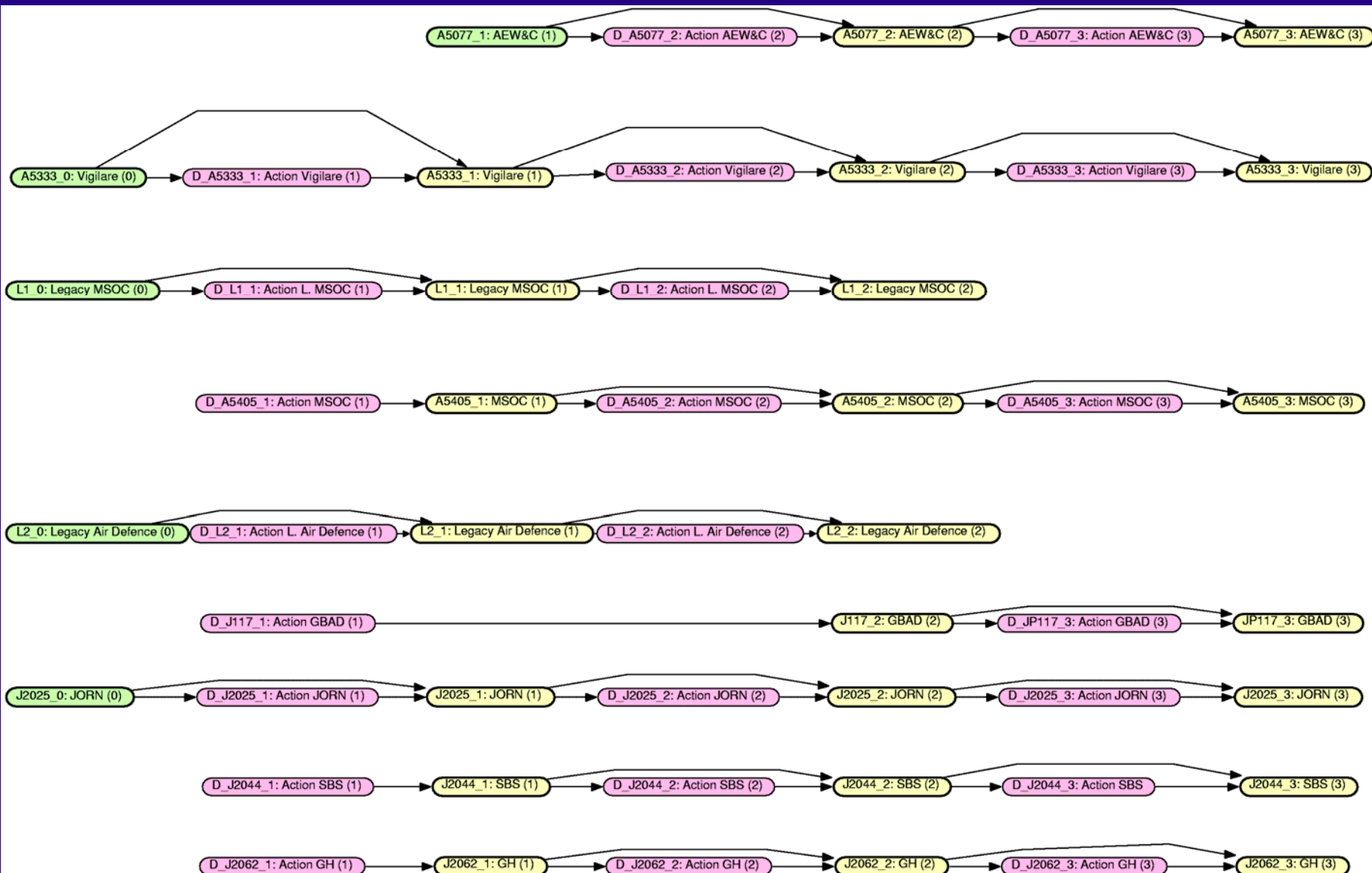
Cost Preference



Asset Configuration Cost Prior Credibility (Period 1)



Temporal Evolution of Asset Configuration



ASBM Marginal Credibility Map

Asset / Period	Period 0	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
AEW&C	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Original Augmented by 2 Augmented by 3	Absent Original Augmented by 2 Augmented by 3
Vigilare	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Original Enhanced	Absent Original Enhanced
L. MSOC	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
MSOC	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
L. Air Defence	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
GBAD	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
JORN	Absent Present	Absent Original Upgraded 1	Absent Original Upgraded 1	Absent Original Upgraded 1 Upgraded 2
SBS	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Original Upgraded
GH	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present

Range	Colour
0–0.1	
0.1–0.2	
0.2–0.3	
0.3–0.4	
0.4–0.5	
0.5–0.6	
0.6–0.7	
0.7–0.8	
0.8–0.9	
0.9–1.0	
1.0	

ASBM Best Prospects Trajectory Map

Asset / Period	Period 0	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
AEW&C	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Original Augmented by 2 Augmented by 3	Absent Original Augmented by 2 Augmented by 3
Vigilare	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Original Enhanced	Absent Original Enhanced
L. MSOC	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
MSOC	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
L. Air Defence	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
GBAD	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present
JORN	Absent Present	Absent Original Upgraded 1	Absent Original Upgraded 1	Absent Original Upgraded 1 Upgraded 2
SBS	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Original Upgraded
GH	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present	Absent Present

Future Work

- Additional case studies
- Build acquisition decision-support models for ADF
- Support Defence Capability Plan development
- Develop active distributed knowledge repository
 - semantic Web technology
 - “industry-standard” products

Conclusion

- Defence Force Systems Engineering
- Semantic Web system knowledge repository
- Artificial intelligence uncertain reasoning techniques
 - find promising alternative designs for closer inspection
 - alleviate task confronting decision-makers
 - may yield improved decision quality and consistency
- Future application to Defence Capability Plan anticipated

Questions?

